

Food Drives and Product Contributions:

The Bremerton Foodline has a continual need to supply food and sundry products for our clients. We stock our warehouse to supply each day's demands. Food Drives and specialized product drives are the backbone of much of our client service. This project packet outlines the recommended products we need and other details to assist an organization in sponsoring a contribution.

The Bremerton Foodline serves a diverse population. Our clients have limited access to food preparation tools. They are typically very low income and have a diet primarily focused on processed foods. Our program promotes broadening the nutrition through introducing staple products. We also provide sundry items such as toothpaste, soap, shampoo, paper products, etc. Occasionally we have pet food for client households when available. All items, including clothing, are provided to the client free of charge.

A Food/Sundry Drive is typically conducted as a direct contribution of products or by money donation, which allows the foodbank to purchase food. We are able to take your food dollars and purchase food products at approximately 30 cents a pound. Individuals requiring a donation receipt must be identified to the Bremerton Foodline with a name, address, and phone. See the second page for hints and ideas regarding organizing your Food Drive.

Recommended contributions include:

General Items

Cereals (including oatmeal and bagged or boxed products)

Pastas and rice (including prepared meal products like Tuna Helper)

Jiffy Mixes or other baking mixes

Juice and other beverages (family or personal sized cans, powdered mixes)

Canned fruits and vegetables (We cannot accept home canned items due to liability issues)

Condiments (ketchup, mustard, pickles, soy sauce, etc.)

Jello or pudding mixes

Toiletries (deodorant, shampoo, hand soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes)

Paper products (toilet paper, facial tissue, paper towels, napkins, feminine care items)

Baby Items (food, formula, disposable diapers, powder, shampoo)

Special Diet Items (Ensure or other liquid diet supplements, sugar free or sodium free items)

Fresh Produce Items

Fruit including apples, pears, and plums that are gleaned from home orchards. This fruit should be in good condition (no bruising or rotting). Use of insecticides during growing should be identified because of potential allergy concerns.

Vegetables, including garden produce such as potatoes, lettuce, green beans, squash, etc. Use of insecticides during growing should be identified of potential allergy concerns.

Meat and Dairy Items (Items can be accepted in original commercial packaging only.

Due to liability issues we cannot accept home butchered meats). Bulk frozen meat products, cheese, fish, etc. are repackaged in our Health Department inspected facility.)

Items for Used for Food Processing in our warehouse area

Plastic garbage bags

Small containers (glass or plastic with lids used for repackaging in the warehouse)

Grocery and paper bags

Ziploc bags.

Items for client use (gently used and clean)

Clothing: including sizes for infants, children, females and males. During cooler seasons, coats in good repair.

Shoes

Blankets, sleeping bags or other warm coverings

Dishes, utensils, and other food preparation tools

.....
Food Drive Support Opportunities:

Volunteers will be needed as follows:

- 1) Coordinate the organization of the Food Drive. Work with the Bremerton Foodline to establish the food concerns at the time of the drive and schedule. Establish the delivery/pickup needs you may have for your food drive. We have a truck with a hydraulic lift to allow us to pick up items at your collection point.
- 2) Prepare publicity including posters, flyers, and contacts with local newspapers to support your food drive.
- 3) Collect boxes for use in packaging and transporting the food. Some donors use plastic grocery bags that aren't sturdy enough to transfer canned items, but any containers (boxes or bags) will be re-used or recycled at the BFL.
- 4) Provide transportation assistance for donations to the BFL. This includes pickup at donor homes or businesses.
- 5) Provide unloading assistance to the BFL to move the items into the warehouse.

.....
Food Drive Hints and Ideas

The Bremerton Foodline has found that the success of a food drive depends on the organization of the event and the information distributed to the potential donors. A BFL representative is available to discuss planning for your event. **Please call the office for information and to notify us of the details prior to holding your event.**

General outline

- **Provide flyers and posters** announcing the dates for your event.
- **Set firm dates for contributions.** Limit the dates to an achievable timeframe.
- **Focus on specific objectives** such as 50 pounds of food per team, a holiday dinner box per group, a donation of a \$1.00 a day for a week, etc.
- **Identify desired items for donation.**
- **Provide reminder notices.**
- **Coordinate with BFL at least 48 hours in advance to make a delivery or obtain a pickup.**

Ideas to get started

- **Organize a competition** such as between classes in a school or divisions in a business that is awarded a “trophy” or prize. Get the business manager’s to donate a prize such as pizza for the winners, donuts for morning coffee at the office, etc.
- If your focus is during the holidays use a “Menu” to assemble a **holiday dinner** or **food “basket” boxes**. Think of a quick easy-to-prepare special meal for a family including beverages. Donate a fixed sum for the meat part of the contribution or provide a gift certificate limited to food products at a local store. (See sample sheet)
- Establish a **“Food Friday”** where your office brings in contributions in exchange for wearing casual clothes.
- Set up a **donation program at a local grocery** through the store manager. Place donation food boxes on selected date/dates and provide volunteers to man each site. This is particularly good for youth groups under the guidance of adults.
- Charge an **“admission”** of a can or box of food for your **organization’s event** such as a concert, play, bowling league, monthly meeting, etc.
- Request the **supervisors or managers** of your organization to support your food drive through a **matching** program. For example, employee donations of a holiday food basket will be matched with a donation for the turkey or ham by the office manager, the company provides a cash donation of 30 cents per pound of donated food, etc.
- Have a **“silent auction”** at your next club meeting using donated items such as a quilt, craft items, or member services (like one hour of gardening or a prepared meal). Use the profits as a cash donation.
- Have a **“Personal Care Day”** at your office. Request that each person consider contributing sample size or full size personal care items. These items can be assembled into care bags or “Hug Kits”. These bags or kits provide emergency personal hygiene for a person; age and gender specific items are needed. An added bonus is a washcloth and hand towel. A simple pattern for a cloth bag is available from Bremerton Foodline. Care bags are specifically designed for homeless or displaced persons.



HOLIDAY DINNER – FOOD BASKET

The following items make up a generous food basket for donation to a community family in need this (fill in holiday). Please select one or two of the items to bring in for our basket. The due date for your food contribution is (fill in date). Thanks for thinking of the hungry and less fortunate!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beverage (Kool-aid or drink mix ready to mix with water) | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee (1 to 2 lbs, ground) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 envelope or box of instant milk | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee filters (1 pack) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 package of roll or biscuit mix | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 lb of margarine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cans vegetables (corn, peas, green beans) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can olives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box stuffing for chicken or turkey | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can sweet potatoes or box of mashed potatoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can cranberry sauce | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can or 2 packets of gravy mix (turkey or chicken) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 package jello (large size) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pears) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 package mini marshmallows | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 frosting (with cake mix) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cake mix or dessert mix | |

Please initial or check your contributions so that we can verify how full the meal is that has been donated. Pass this along to the next person on the list. Remember that donations are due by (fill in date) and may be placed in the box located at (fill in location).

Your donation coordinator is (fill in name and phone number). If you wish to make cash donations or bring added food items, please notify the coordinator. NO TIME??? The Bremerton Foodline can purchase a basic dinner box for 4 for \$25.00.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FEELS GREAT!